



## ***“A Friend of Sinners”***

Mark 2:13-22 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon  
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***Introduction*** – *While Jesus was on earth He did some pretty scandalous things according to the religious leaders at the time, and right up there at the top of the list was His friendship with known sinners.*

### ***I. Jesus is a Jewish Rabbi.***

- A. Rabbis were highly respected itinerant teachers of the Law in Israel.
- B. But the rabbi Jesus didn't follow rabbi protocol.
- C. Jesus invited people to follow Him.
- D. “Following” Jesus is synonymous with being a “disciple” of Jesus.
- E. There were high expectations of disciples.
- F. Jesus asked Levi to be His disciple.

### ***II. Jesus is a Friend of Sinners.***

- A. Levi's other name was Matthew.
- B. To celebrate being asked to become Jesus' disciple, Levi throws a party for Jesus with other tax collectors and sinners, and Jesus shockingly joins them.
- C. What was the problem?
- D. Tax Collectors were considered untrustworthy sinners.
- E. But the real scandal was God's grace.

### ***III. Jesus is The Focal Point.***

- A. Jesus and His disciples face another criticism: they weren't fasting.
- B. Fasting was a way to humble yourself in order to get God's attention.
- C. Jesus responds with three analogies to explain why they weren't fasting.
  - 1. The bridegroom.
  - 2. The new and old cloth.
  - 3. The new wine and wineskins.

### ***Conclusion***